



Meeting Minutes

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Regular Meetings: The First, Second,
And Third Tuesday of each month

REGULAR MEETING

July 10, 2007

County Courthouse
Bridgeport, California 93517

9:00 a.m. Meeting called to order by Chairman Hazard

Pledge of Allegiance led by Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Reid reported on the following issues and activities:

- (1) Hosted Herb Glazier's retirement party on June 29th, his resolution was well received; about 150 people attended, there was good food and music.
- (2) Attended a Twin Lakes Homeowners Association meeting on the 2nd; they discussed Lahontan (water quality control board), and the County and permits. Lahontan started a water-quality study several years ago, but only got about half way through. The Board of Supervisors might consider holding a meeting with Lahontan to gather more information in order to better understand the relationship.
- (3) Left the Board meeting on July 3rd in order to help at the rodeo. It was well attended on the 4th, but there was a problem with heat, so about half way through people started to leave. Everything went well and no concerns were expressed.
- (4) Attended the Virginia Lakes Homeowners Association on Saturday; they talked about water system problems. There seems to be serious quality problems along with monetary problems, which they are working on. People also expressed concern about hunting in the area. In past years they have talked about restrictions; need to get more information.
- (5) Planning to meet with Stacey Simon, County Counsel's Office, and the Walker Lake Acquisition Team on Thursday.

Supervisor Hunt reported on the following issues and activities:

- (1) Yesterday attended a presentation by the Sierra Business Council, and received a report on the state of the Sierra. The report is informative and talks about economics, social issues, and environmental issues; it also provides suggestions about capturing economic opportunities. This meeting was a great opportunity to interact with a variety of people representing various agencies. Regarding the issue of agriculture, someone suggested considering the long-term benefits of retaining agricultural land versus capturing short-term dollars with subdivisions and developments.
- (2) Attended the 4th of July parade in Mammoth; because the holiday was in the middle of the week, the turn-out was low. Even so, it was a great celebration in Mammoth Lakes, and the weather was good.

Supervisor Bauer reported on the following issues and activities:

- (1) Attended the Eastern Sierra Partners working group meeting; this is a committed group of people intent on moving forward with marketing regional tourism. Received good ideas from the Gateway Partners Intranet. The group plans to have regular meetings; this will be an informal working group. Sarah McCahill, Economic Development Manager, was a valuable part of this process.
- (2) Attended the Mammoth Fire Station inaugural dinner event last Tuesday. It is a very nice facility, and Chief Harper is doing a great job; they have a good staff. The station includes quarters for the captains and the crew. However the Murphy beds are too short, so this is an issue they need to address.
- (3) Intrawest has not given any funding for consultants and their application is not complete. Also there are no workshop dates set up with the community as expected.
- (4) The dog park in June Lake is meeting with more resistance than expected. Will be conducting a survey asking the community for input about the use of the park, such as special events.
- (5) Tom Wheeler is working on a planning process for Highway 41, Fresno/Oakhurst.
- (6) Fred Thompson is running for president; joined his team via the internet movement. He is putting strategic people in the various states, but is not running a campaign yet.

Supervisor Hazard reported on the following issues and activities:

- (1) Held office hours in Benton last Friday. Two people talked about the flood channel and the need to remove weeds and debris. Asked Scott Burns if he could use the GIS system to pull up the number of private property pieces in the Hammil area.
- (2) The group wanting to talk about the park in Paradise Estates didn't meet, but they want to explore this issue in the future.
- (3) Traveled through the South County on the 4th of July and saw a lot of activity. There were parking issues along the sides of the roads, and many people were gathering in areas outside of Crowley Lake rather than at the Lake, so the County didn't capture the revenue from entrance fees. This is an issue of health and safety, and needs to be considered in the future. There were 20-30 boats on the Lake, which presents challenges. The County needs to get more involved, and can't let this go unchecked in the future.
- (4) Yesterday had a phone conversation with Tom Bohigian (Senator Boxer's Office); discussed moving the Hoover process forward. One concept is to stay small in scope.
- (5) While in Yellowstone, observed the quality of the roads. They are much wider, and far superior to the roads in Yosemite. Noticed a lack of speeding in Yellowstone due to the improved roadways. Supervisor Bauer said the Friends of Yosemite group has been fighting against road improvements in Yosemite, so this is part of the problem.
- (6) Received a complaint yesterday about operations of the community center in Crowley Lake. They have been allowing live bands, which are too loud, are playing late into the night, and are not responding to requests to control the noise. Need to review use permits, and permits for amplified music.
- (7) The Jazz festival will be held this week in Mammoth Lakes.
- (8) Received a letter last week regarding the bill that would require people to spay or neuter their pets. Asked Nancy Boardman, Animal Control, to brief the Board on this issue at a future meeting.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

1)

CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (David Wilbrecht)

ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.

David Wilbrecht reported on the following issues and activities:

- (1) The 4th of July was a successful holiday for the County.

- (2) Following up with personnel items that have come up.
- (3) Working with the paramedic chief for next week's presentation.
- (4) Walker Senior Center issues: Site coordination is a problem right now—the Executive Director of IMAAA is out of the country, and there is also a vacant position. Mary Miller, the public health nurse for Inyo County, is providing some coverage; the cook is still working, but there are problems with the dish washer. There seems to be very little communication between IMAAA and the community, which is causing problems. Supervisor Hazard asked about the status of the representative for the Benton Senior Center; he also asked if Mary Miller will take the IMAAA position. Wilbrecht did not know the answer about Mary's position. The situation in Walker needs to be better managed; Ed Zylman may be able to offer some resources, and knows someone who is interested in working in Walker. The Walker Senior Center needs to be taken out of IMAAA because the location is too far away. Supervisor Hazard asked about putting this item on a future agenda for discussion. Wilbrecht said he could put this item on the first meeting in August, and will ask Charlie Brodin to give a report. Will also follow-up with the Benton position. Supervisor Reid said flyers went out for a site coordinator, but the time frame was too brief; the recruitment time needs to be extended.
- (5) Yesterday met with Rob Clark and Ron Julip regarding the ESTA report. They are finalizing a business plan and will then discuss the role of the Executive Director. Finances are becoming important, and there are many costs involved with managing this function. Strategic planning will take ESTA to the next level, and with a good director, this can ultimately be a very well-run service.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of June 19, 2007.

M07-175 *(Bauer/Reid, 3-0; Hunt abstain, Farnetti absent)*

CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved in one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item)

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

- 3) Retirement Resolution for Betty May
ACTION: Approve and authorize the Board's signatures on a retirement Resolution in honor of Betty May's service to Mono County.
M07-176 *(Reid/Hunt, 4-0; Farnetti absent)*

CLOSED SESSION

Adjourned for closed session from 9:05 a.m. through 9:40 a.m.; break from 9:40 a.m. through 9:49 a.m.

- 4) **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION.** Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54956.9. Number of potential cases: one

Reconvened at 9:49 a.m.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

Evan Nikirk, Public Works Director, reported on the following:

- (1) Looking into NRCS grant funding for re-vegetation remediation. The NRCS program is available for ranchers and agricultural-related uses. Residents not zoned for agriculture or not involved in agricultural activities are not eligible. Someone from NRCS will be in a meeting tomorrow in Bishop, and will talk about available funding. Can get an update to determine if there are other funding sources.
- (2) A few months ago reported on the Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Act. There is a provision in the law allowing for an exemption for counties with fewer than 500,000 people. In 2000-2001, the County elected to comply and has been proceeding in a satisfactory way.
- (3) Have started to receive requests for grading permits as a result of the Walker/Coleville fire. The gate fee waiver does not apply to contractors. Councilmember Reid said an elderly person in his district doesn't own a truck or trailer, and can't move the debris. However, this person wants to create a defensible space, so he hired a contractor to do it. Reid said he would like the Board and the Public Works Department to consider waiving gate fees for contractors under these circumstances. Nikirk said there is a concern about "clean" loads (not containing rocks and other matter that will damage the chipping equipment). Usually contractors' loads include rocks and problem materials, so it takes more time to clean up the load before chipping. Loads are not always inspected when they come in, so it would be impossible to know which contractor brought in a problem load. However he said he understands the concern and can try to work with contractors on an individual basis.

Sheriff Scholl reported on the following:

- (1) Update about a storage facility for the boat. Currently pay \$3,900 per year; if house in a County facility, the cost will be reduced by this amount.
- (2) A new public safety officer is starting on July 21st.
- (3) There were only a few problems in the County on the 4th of July: drunken arrests, disturbing the peace, and minor fires, which the fire department anticipated and extinguished quickly. Supervisor Hazard said he received two phone calls about activities in the County: there was a large crowd at Crowley Lake Park and the restroom and trash facilities were overwhelmed; plus people parked their cars on a variety of roads where they hadn't parked before. Scholl suggested the cost to get into Crowley Lake could have had something to do with that.

Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel, reported on the following:

- (1) He received a letter from an attorney for the IAG who has a contract for Conway Ranch. The letter talks about creating a subcommittee to address issues. IAG, Tim Alpers, the Fisheries Commissioners, and Dan Lyster, have since discussed the letter, so it may not represent the current position. Also, county staff does not necessarily concur with the statements in the letter. At some point if there is a need for a subcommittee, County staff will bring the item forward.
- (2) Based on the Board's desire for a Mono County resident to represent the County on the Fish and Game Advisory Board, Larry McIntosh is being encouraged to apply for the Inyo County vacancy. In answer to a question about whether some of the fisheries commissioners serve on the Fish and Game Advisory Board, the answer is no.

REGULAR AGENDA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 5a) Report from Michael Schlafmann
ACTION: Receive introduction of Michael Schlafmann, Deputy District Ranger, Mammoth and Mono Lake Districts, and hear brief report on Inyo Forest projects.

Pulled from the agenda due to an unexpected scheduling conflict; will be rescheduled.

- 5b) Crop Report (**George Milovich**)
ACTION: Receive presentation of 2006 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Inyo/Mono Counties per Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code.

George Milovich, Agricultural Commissioner, distributed copies of the Counties of Inyo and Mono Agriculture Department, 2006 Annual Crop and Livestock Report (a copy is on file in the Clerk's Office). He highlighted the following information:

- Agricultural production is close to \$50 million. Changes in the market increased the value of beef; organic beef is a solid market that producers are considering. The hay market has increased, partly due to corn being used for auto fuel; rather than corn, hay is being used for livestock, and the prices of hay will impact the prices of beef.
- Mono County production is 50% livestock and 38% field crop. Due to a dry cold winter, farmers lost garlic; row crops did well in Hammil; there was a loss of timber harvesting. Another dry year could be very problematic.
- Regarding land management, proper grazing and prescribed burning is an asset to reduce fuel load and the risk of wild fires; there is a gap in proper management of state and federal lands.
- Regarding noxious weeds, the department received \$100,000 for a 2-year program; have purchased new equipment, and the department is working on weed problems in Coleville.
- Received a \$65,000 grant to hire a consultant who will investigate the feasibility of a small slaughter facility to handle Inyo and Mono Counties' specialty meat market (Eastern Sierra Natural/Organic Beef). In conjunction with tribal money, the department could create a packing company for small ranchers so they can create a niche for the organic market.

Supervisor Hunt asked about a specialty market for vegetables. Milovich said beef is the big market, but there would be no reason why they couldn't pursue other products. He would like to see farmers grow food from this area and create a niche market. Supervisor Hazard asked about the wine industry. Milovich said people have been investigating the possibility of producing wine; the problem is finding a market. Hazard asked if DWP is revisiting grazing issues. Milovich said he will look into it and keep the Board informed. Regarding drought issues, Milovich said he would be meeting on Wednesday with cattleman, the farm bureau, ranchers, and agency people to discuss issues with drought; so far, this area has not been affected.

- 5c)** Williamson Act (**George Milovich**)
ACTION: Approve and sign letters of support of retention of the Williamson Act subvention payments.
M07-177 (*Hunt/Bauer, 4-0; Farnetti absent*)

George Milovich, Agricultural Commissioner, asked for the Board's support regarding the Williamson Act; most of the state is asking the Governor not to "blue-line" the Williamson Act. The agricultural community is perplexed about this since the Governor has been a proponent of conservation easements. The Act helps the County with funding, and helps preserve agricultural lands since ranchers get a tax benefit for keeping land agricultural rather than subdividing. There is \$41 billion in agriculture throughout the state, so the Governor's action presents a concern.

Supervisor Bauer said she spoke with all the representatives in Sacramento, and they support the Williamson Act. CSAC is also working on this issue. Some people in Sacramento think the Act is being used as a bargaining chip.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE—HUMAN RESOURCES

- 6a)** Resolution Approving Employment Contract with Clay Neely (**Robert Garret**)
ACTION: Adopt **Resolution 07-48**, "A Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Approving an Employment Agreement with Clay Neely and Prescribing the Compensation, Appointment, and Conditions of Said Employment."
R07-48 (*Bauer/Reid, 4-0; Farnetti absent*)

Robert Garret, County Administrative Office—Human Resources, said this contract is a routine renewal. Clay Neely has had a long and successful association with the County, starting as a consultant and then becoming Director of IT. Garret pointed out one correction: pay will commence July 10, 2007, not 2010. County Counsel has the corrected version of the contract. Garret recommended renewal.

- 6b)** Resolution Authorizing the Deputy County Administrative Officer—Human Resources to Amend the County of Mono List of Allocated Positions (**Robert Garret, Greg Busey**)
ACTION: Adopt **Resolution 07-49**, "A Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Authorizing the Deputy County Administrative Officer—Human Resources to Amend the County of Mono List of Allocated Positions to Add 2.8 Court Screener Positions as of July 10, 2007."
R07-49 (*Reid/Hunt, 4-0; Farnetti absent*)

Robert Garret, County Administrative Office—Human Resources, said the County received a mandate from the Administrative Office of Courts to provide enhanced court screening, like the system used in some of the larger counties (electronic screening of people entering the courtroom). The Courts have provided funding to meet the mandate, about \$280,000 for this fiscal year. Garret asked for the authority to amend the list of allocated positions so the hiring process can begin. These positions will be different than a Deputy Sheriff but supervised by the Sheriff; it has not yet been determined whether they will carry firearms.

Supervisor Hazard asked if the employees would be 830 peace officers with the usual benefits. Robert Weber, Sheriff Lieutenant, said they will be 830 positions, but at-will, hourly, and not subject to benefits. The intended applicant pool is PERS retirees. Hazard expressed concern that in the future there may not be available retirees, which would require the County to hire full-time employees with benefits. Supervisor Hunt shared this concern. Garret suggested hiring seasonal boating officers as another alternative. The proposed action today covers the number of positions needed for the next year; future alternatives will need to be explored. In response to a question about retirement benefits, Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel, said PERS would need to answer the question about whether or not the nature of these duties requires a safety retirement; if so entitled, the retirement would be 3% at 50. Supervisor Reid asked how many screeners will be working on a given day. Sheriff Scholl said there will be a bailiff inside the courtroom and two screeners outside the building.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

- 7) Present Retirement Resolution to Betty May (**Bill Reid**)
ACTION: Present framed retirement resolution to Betty May honoring her years of service to Mono County.

Supervisor Reid read the resolution and presented it to Betty May. The Board congratulated her on her retirement. Betty thanked the people she has worked with.

ADJOURNMENT @ 11:29 a.m.

Supervisor Reid adjourned the meeting in honor of Bart Cranney, a long term resident and pack station operator, who recently passed away. Shirley Cranney was Mono County's past Treasurer/Tax Collector, and Bart's daughter, Sherrie Hale, works in the Clerk-Recorder's Office.

Mono County Board of Supervisor's next regular session will be on **July 17, 2007**, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, California.

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